

Serial No. 09/643,261
Amendment dated October 3, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 3, 2003

Docket No. K-210

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Reply, claims 2, 3, 10, and 15-18 are amended, and claims 19 and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Claim 17 has been amended to include features of claims 19 and 20, which were previously examined by the Patent Office. Additionally, claims 2, 3, 10, 15 and 16 have been amended to attend to informalities, and the dependency of claim 18 has been corrected. Hence, no new issues are raised by these amendments. Entry is thus requested.

Applicants notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 10. However, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

I. Claims 1 and 13

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,991,832) (hereinafter Sato), in view of Ohkura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,009) (hereinafter Ohkura), and in further view of Barnett et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,369,840) (hereinafter Barnett). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The asserted combination of references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, as required by Section 103. For example, the asserted combination of references fails to teach or suggest at least displaying a reservation confirmation screen if the user selects a reservation confirmation mode in a two-dimensional grid, a first dimension representing days of a week and a second to dimension representing times of a day, as recited in claim 1.

According to one aspect of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a graphical display of reservation viewing and reservation recording is provided. For example, referring to Figure 6 of the preferred embodiment, a grid display is depicted. Days of the week are displayed across the top of the grid on the horizontal axis. Times of the day are displayed on the left side of the grid along a vertical axis. Within the grid, names of shows are displayed corresponding to the date and time that they are scheduled. Accordingly, a user

can view the selected events for a particular time frame on a graphical display that corresponds to the time and day that the displayed events are scheduled. Additionally, all scheduled events in a date and time range can be seen at once on the grid.

Additionally, for events that are displayed, a background of the item showing the corresponding program title can be provided with a color code indicating the type of event that is scheduled. For example, the color could indicate whether the selection is for reservation viewing, reservation recording, or a simultaneous selection of both.

This is in contrast to the cited references Sato relates to an electronic program guide and a display for displaying the electronic program guide information. For example, referring to Figures 8-10, Sato teaches that a user can reserve a show from a program guide for a recording. As shown in Sato Figure 8, the electronic program guide screen displays a single day, and shows a schedule for selected starting times. Using a remote control, an operator would move a cursor up or down to select a desired program. The user would then select a confirmation key to reserve a recording of the selected program. The reservation confirmation, however, only consists of a message at the bottom of the screen indicating that the reservation has been made, as shown in Figure 10 (item C). Consequently, Sato fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of displaying a reservation confirmation screen on a two-dimensional grid, as recited in at least claim 1, and fails to teach or suggest any features of the claimed grid.

Ohkura relates to a program guide controller. Ohkura teaches that a program table guide control apparatus generates program table picture including date and hour information. Thus, referring to Figures 7A-7D, Ohkura teaches that the graphical display has a column for date, a second column for hour, a third column for program, and a fourth column for genre. A user thus first selects the date from the day column, then selects a time from the hour column. According to the selected genre, various titles of programs to be broadcast at the selected date and time are displayed. See Ohkura column 9, lines 25-56.

Next, as admitted by the Patent Office, the combination Sato and Ohkura fails to teach or suggest a two-dimensional grid with a first dimension representing a plurality of days and second dimension representing times of a day. Moreover, Applicant submits that the combination of references fails to teach or suggest displaying a reservation confirmation screen if the user selects a reservation confirmation mode in a two-dimensional grid with a first dimension representing a plurality of days and second dimension representing times of day. The Patent Office accordingly appears to rely upon Barnett to teach such features, and directs Applicant's attention to Barnett Figure 9.

Barnett relates to an online calendaring system. Although Barnett shows a two-dimensional grid display with a first dimension representing a plurality of days and second dimension representing times of a day, the combination of references fails to teach or suggest the claimed features. For example, the two-dimensional display taught by Barnett is

taught to be an online calendar. Specifically, Barnett Figure 9 illustrates a “week view” of a Favorite Events screen of the online calendar. The calendar displays events selected by a user, which events can be shared with other users.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that calendars have been known for a considerable amount of time. Additionally, computer based calendaring systems have likewise been known, and have included “week views” among display options. Barnett is merely an example of an online calendar showing such a view. There is no teaching or suggestion, however, in any of the references to combine the particular calendar view shown by Barnett with the electronic program guide taught by Sato to achieve the reservation viewing guide recited in the claims.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that it requires the impermissible use of hindsight reconstruction to combine these references in such a manner. Specifically, it is only the Applicant’s teaching that renders the claimed reservation viewing guide obvious in the combination of references. For example, although computer based “week view” calendars were known at the time of Sato, and although Sato teaches various methods for displaying program data, Sato was apparently unable to include a display option similar to the claimed reservation viewing guide. Moreover, there is no specific teaching or suggestion in any of the references to combine these features. For example, Barnett discusses calendaring various events, but does not teach or suggest using a calendar in association with a reservation

viewing system. Furthermore, Sato discusses many display options, but fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed two-dimensional grid. Hence, there is no motivation to combine these references. Accordingly, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be made. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Therefore, as there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references to combine any particular calendar view of Barnett with an electronic program guide taught by Sato or Ohkura, Applicant respectfully submits that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15

Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato in view of Ohkura and Barnett, and further in view of Schein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,059) (hereinafter Schein). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The asserted combination of references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, as required by Section 103. For example, claims 2-9, 11, and 12 depend from claim 1. Sato, Ohkura, and Barnett are discussed above with respect to claim 1 and do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Schein, either alone or in combination with the other references, fails to cure their deficiencies or to teach or suggest the claimed features.

For example, Schein relates to an electronic program guide having interactive areas. Schein, however, also fails to teach or suggest displaying a reservation confirmation screen. Moreover, to the extent that the electronic program guide is considered to be a reservation confirmation screen, Schein teaches a graphical display having a first dimension representing times of a day, and a second dimension representing a channel number/network identification. See. e.g., Figure 1. Moreover, in another embodiment, as shown in Schein Figure 16, Schein teaches that particular programs can be singled out for displaying all occurrences of the selected program in chronological order. See column 12, lines 46-49. In this embodiment, however, both dates and times are shown along the same axis.

Consequently, Schein, either alone or in combination with the other references, fails to teach or suggest at least displaying a reservation confirmation screen in a two-dimensional grid, a first dimension representing days of the week and a second dimension representing times of a day, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-9, 11, and 12 depend from claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as their added features and the combinations thereof. Because the prima facie case of obviousness cannot be made, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Claim 5

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato, Ohkura, Barnett, and Schein, and further in view of Sun-Woo (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,554). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The asserted combination of references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, as required by Section 103. For example, claim 5 depends from claim 4, and ultimately depends from claim 1. The combination of Sato, Ohkura, and Barnett are discussed above with respect to claim 1, and the combination of Sato, Ohkura, Barnett, and Schein is discussed above with respect to claim 4. As discussed above, the combinations of references fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed features. Additionally, the Patent Office admits that the combination of Sato, Ohkura, Barnett, and Schein further fails to teach or suggest placing a reservation guide as a sub-screen in the center of the screen.

Sun-Woo, either alone or combination with the other references, also fails to teach or suggest all the claimed features. For example, Sun-Woo relates to a calendar viewing system, which provides a view of a set of “user activity information” for selected time period, which replaces a portion of a calendar view. Specifically, referring to Figure 3, Sun-Woo teaches that a detailed view 30 is displayed showing information for a particular day that is selected from a calendar view 22. Accordingly, Sun-Woo fails to teach or suggest displaying a program list including displaying at least one of a channel number

corresponding to the dates and times selected by the user, a broadcasting station and, and a program title on a sub-screen, as recited in claim 5.

Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references to combine the references to achieve the claimed invention. For example, the Patent Office asserts that Schein suggests the need for a reservation sub-screen on a large screen, and asserts that teaching the use of a graphical user interface (GUI) suggests such a need. Applicant respectfully disagrees. For example, a GUI is merely a way of viewing command options on a screen. Thus, in column 10, lines 55-61, Schein teaches that "the GUI is utilized with different interactive regions on a displayed screen corresponding to different functions. The user moves the cursor over the interactive region corresponding to a desired function and selects the function to generate command. The particular form of entering a command is not critical . . ." Accordingly, the GUI is simply a way to interact with the system. Consequently, there is no teaching or suggestion regarding a need for a reservation sub-screen on a large screen.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that requires the impermissible use of hindsight reconstruction to extract certain features from the various references to reconstruct Applicant's claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made and therefore claim 5 is allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim 17

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Barnett in view of Schein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The asserted combination of references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, as required by Section 103. For example, claim 17 has been amended to include the features of claims 19 and 20, and has further been amended to reiterate information from the preamble of the claim for clarity.

Barnett and Schein are discussed above. Barnett relates to an online calendaring system. Schein relates to an electronic program guide having interactive areas. Accordingly, neither Barnett nor Schein teaches or suggests displaying a reservation confirmation screen as a grid display, or determining a list of events, which are television programs, to be displayed on the grid display according to a user selection of events from a channel guide. Consequently, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be made and claim 17 is allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Claims 16 and 18-20

Claims 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato, in view of Ohkura, Barnett, and Schein, and further view of Alexander (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,931). Claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter

therein and therefore the rejection of these claims is moot. This rejection, with respect to claims 16 and 18, is respectfully traversed.

The asserted combination of references fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, as required under section 103. For example, claim 16 ultimately depends from claim 1 and claim 18 depends from claim 17. The combination of Sato, Ohkura, and Barnett are discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 17, as is the combination of Sato, Ohkura, Barnett, and Schein. As discussed above, these combinations of references fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed features. Alexander fails to cure their deficiencies. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claims 18 has been amended to correct the dependency, and depends from claim 17, which includes features from claims 19 and 20, which have now been canceled. Claim 18 is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17. Additionally, the asserted combination of references fails to teach or suggest a background color of an event display indicates one of reservation beginning, reservation recording, and simultaneous selection of the reservation viewing and the reservation recording for the corresponding event, as recited in claim 18. Hence, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be made with respect to claims 16 or 18, thus claims 16 and 18 are allowable. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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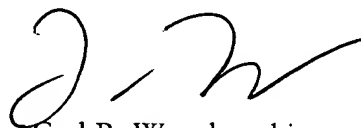
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Laura L. Lee, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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